

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: 1534481517262.jpg

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1800573.005

Medium: Image File

Publisher: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: Not applicable

Applicant: New Zealand Defence Force Military Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 19 February 2019

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 19 February 2019

Summary of reasons for decision:

The religious image is in the style of a Sunday School book illustration and is a deliberately offensive visual joke involving bestiality. The Classification has considered whether the image promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, bestiality and has concluded that it does not. While some adults are likely to be offended by the image, they are presumed to have the necessary maturity to contextualise the sexually explicit content as part of the taboo-breaking humour, or simply regard it as distasteful. However, the image does require restriction. The explicit depiction of bestiality involving a religious figure, even in an illustrative style, is likely cause harm to younger viewers. They are unlikely to have the maturity or experience to deal with this type of sexual humour. They are less likely to understand the transgressive intent and this may well adversely affect the development of their sexual or social attitudes. The image is therefore classified as objectionable except if its availability is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years. This classification is the lowest reasonable limitation that can be placed upon the right to freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 in order to prevent injury to the public good.